



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

12 JULY 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
12 JULY 1965

1. Vietnam

Widespread harassing actions characterized Viet Cong operations over the weekend. In one operation on 9 July in Binh Dinh Province (see map), the Viet Cong mortared a district headquarters and simultaneously moved against five nearby militia-protected New Life Hamlets, from which they kidnapped some 2,580 civilians, heading them toward the mountains.

Hanoi and Peiping propaganda highlights the sendoff of the "first contingent" of Hanoi's "shock brigade of young volunteers" for an "active assignment." The ambiguous wording of the announcements is apparently intended to raise the spectre of their introduction into South Vietnam. North Vietnamese intercepts, however, suggest the "volunteers" will be going to construction work camps in North Vietnam--presumably on damage repair assignments.

50X1

2. Greece

Constantine and Premier Papandreou had their confrontation yesterday, but the issue still seems in doubt.

Today Papandreou said he was pushing ahead with the ouster of Defense Minister Garoufalias, which the King had been strongly opposing. This may mean that a compromise--at Garoufalias' expense--has been reached. The King, however, has yet to sign the decree required to legalize the change.

50X1

3. Common Market

Paris has begun hinting that it may soften its line on the Common Market dispute. The French have suggested they might attend a July Council meeting and are denying any intention of blocking the market's change to majority voting next January.

Paris probably intends these moves as reassurance to French economic groups that some kind of "common market" will continue. There is no sign the French have given up the fight against the organization's present institutions, however, and Paris is still insisting on bilateral talks with the other members.

4. India

Concern is rising in New Delhi over a possible repetition of last year's food shortages, which precipitated widespread riots.

While this year's grain harvest will be substantially larger than in 1964, imports will still be necessary to insure adequate supplies, to prevent hoarding, and to maintain buffer stocks. The Indian Government is counting heavily on monthly shipments of 500,000-600,000 tons of US grain with "at most" a short interruption. If serious doubt about this arises, our embassy believes there could be virtual panic in India.

The Shastri government--largely because it was newly appointed--escaped with only embarrassment during last year's trouble. A crisis this year would be laid directly at Shastri's doorstep, and opposition politicians--including the Communists--are already planning to capitalize on it.

5. Dominican Republic

The Imbert government announced today that Read Barreras had declined to accept the vice presidency of the provisional government. Garcia Godoy is still having trouble getting qualified men to accept other positions.

The rebels held their rally in Santo Domingo today, apparently without incident. Caamano addressed them, limiting his remarks largely to a rehash of the rebel negotiating position.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET